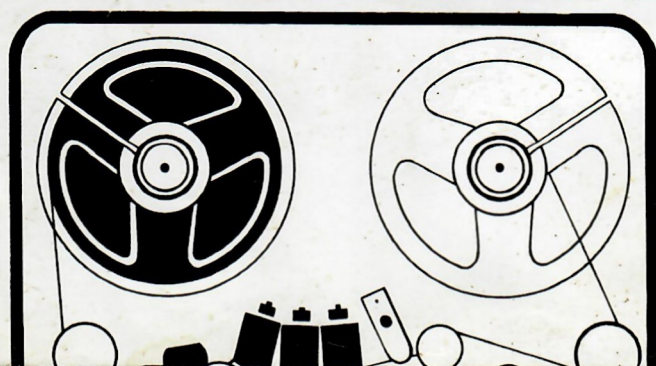
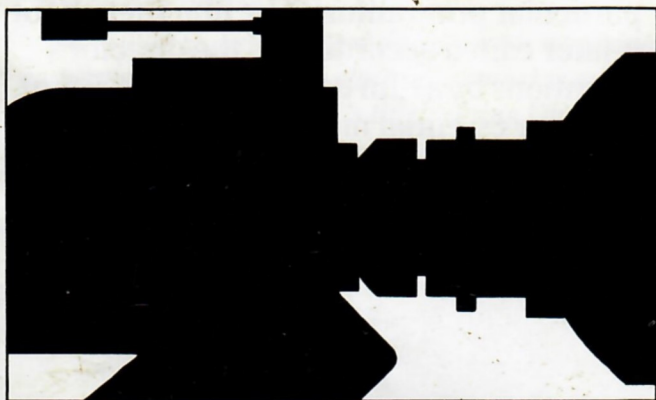


**JOB**  
OPPORTUNITIES  
**IN THE**  
**BBC**

BAL  
SPARE

# FILM TRAINING



Film plays a major role in the making of television programmes. Some broadcasts consist entirely of filmed material. Many others incorporate large amounts of film in addition to 'live' material or video-tape. Much of the film is shot on location at home and abroad – and this means film crews do a lot of travelling, often at short notice.

The film organisation, based at Ealing in West London, provides all the film services required by television except for Television News and programmes produced in the regions.

The basic operational unit is a camera crew consisting of a cameraman and an assistant, a sound recordist with an assistant, and lighting and other staff – all working to the director in charge of a particular programme. The film they shoot is later edited according to the director's intentions by a film editor and an assistant. Another essential member of the film-making team is the film assistant who operates the projectors in preview and dubbing theatres.





---

## HOW DO YOU START ?

---

The usual way to start a career in the BBC's film service is as a trainee. Entrants are trained to work in one of four categories:

**Assistant film cameramen** help the cameramen in all aspects of their work, including loading and changing magazines, 'pulling focus' and making sure all the right equipment is at hand. They may also actually operate the camera under the cameraman's direction.

*Note: the title 'cameraman' is a customary one, but men and women are equally eligible.*

**Assistant film recordists** work either on location or at base. On location they help the recordist balance and control the sound recording and manipulate microphone booms and other equipment. At base they are involved in the transfer of the sound recorded on location from  $\frac{1}{4}$ " tape on to 16mm magnetic stock, ready for editing alongside a synchronised film carrying the pictures.

**Assistant film editors** help the editors by ensuring smooth running of the cutting room, logging film in and out, marking up effects, doing 'joins' in the edited material and keeping in touch with film processing laboratories.

*BBC film crew on location.*





*Assistant film editor 'sync-ing' up the rushes.*

**Film assistants class II (projectionists)** operate projection equipment in dubbing and viewing theatres. They may also be involved in the dubbing process in which the final soundtrack is produced, using the original location recording plus other soundtracks such as commentary and music.

---

## QUALIFICATIONS

---

Candidates for training should be aged at least 18 and have a good general education to 'O' level or equivalent standard – including physics and/or mathematics. They should have an active interest in films and film-making and be well informed on such subjects as photography, the cinema, and, for assistant recordist posts, magnetic sound recording and electronics. Normal colour vision is essential and assistant recordists must have good hearing. Assistant cameramen and recordists must also have a current driving licence or obtain one within a specified time.



---

## TRAINING

---

Training for camera, editing and projection staff starts at Ealing with instruction in basic techniques and is followed by training on the job. Recording trainees spend their first three months at the BBC's Engineering Training Centre at Wood Norton, Evesham, then continue their training at Ealing. After about a year, trainees are promoted to assistant status on passing a proficiency test and subject to satisfactory reports. Assistant recordists work in the transfer suites and dubbing theatres before progressing to mobile duties and location work. Promotion to film cameraman, recordist, editor or senior projectionist is by competition for internally advertised vacancies. Assistant recordists may also have the chance to become dubbing mixers.

Similar film training vacancies occur from time to time in Television News and at BBC centres throughout the UK.

***Note:** Film cameramen are distinct from television cameramen who operate electronic cameras and are recruited into the BBC's Engineering Division as 'technical operators.'*

*A dubbing mixer and his assistant prepare a final soundtrack in the new dubbing suite at Lime Grove.*



---

## HOW TO APPLY

---

Vacancies open to non-BBC candidates are normally advertised in *The Listener* and relevant specialist periodicals. Selected candidates may be invited to a preliminary interview, and those shortlisted are asked to appear before a final appointment board. Because we receive large numbers of applications, the selection process may last several weeks.

When you see an advertisement, write to the address below and ask for an application form:

**BBC Appointments,  
Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA**

*If you have professional experience in film, you can apply for holiday relief work or for vacancies at the assistant level.*

---

## WHEN FILLING IN AN APPLICATION FORM

---



- Write (or type) clearly and concisely.
- Say why you want the job and what practical experience and qualities you have to offer.
- Remember, the person with proven enthusiasm for, or achievement in the chosen field, will have a head start over the uncommitted applicant.
- Remember also that, in the first instance, all we know about you is what you put on your form (but do not write pages of life-history – the space provided should be enough).

---

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

---

The BBC's personnel policies are based on equal opportunity for all. This applies to external recruitment, internal appointments, terms of employment, conditions of service and opportunities for training and promotion, irrespective of sex, marital status, creed, colour, race or ethnic origin, and the BBC is committed to the development and promotion of such equality of opportunity.